



August-October 2011

The BenzScene

The newsletter of the MBCA International Stars

FALL for our AUTUMN EVENTS!

Forward Ramblings: Notes from your President, Peter Williams

You might think that when fall arrives that it's time to put away the car and to put away your involvement in car club activities. Quite the contrary is actually true! We have some really great events coming up which we think you will enjoy.

September 17th we are hosting our annual car show. Yes, the notice is short, but it's a laid-back family oriented picnic event which we are combining with our Show and Shine with our New Member party. The premise is simple...come and join us with your car, bring a food item and have some fun voting on which car is your favorite. This is a fun event! We have ribbons for the winners and we all have a great time. Please see the flyer in this edition of the Benz Scene for more information.

On October 15th we are hosting our Fall Pumpkin Color Tour. When we initially announced the event, all of the details were not in place. Today, details are set. There is a modest per person entry fee for each museum we are going to visit. We start out at the Big Boy on Hall Road and Garfield. Then we drive to the Wills St. Claire Museum in Marysville, and tour the museum. Next we are going to drive to Clyde, Michigan to have lunch at the Dorsey House. A restaurant has been in this same location since 1847! Finally we drive to Selfridge Air Base to visit their aviation museum. See the flyer attached. Here are some important supplemental instructions: Selfridge is an active US Military facility. If you are a foreign national or have a strong foreign accent you will have to be escorted onto the base to the Museum. This is their rules, not ours. Everyone, not just the driver, must bring a valid US or State government ID (drivers license), and proof of insurance and registration for your car. We will be joined by other car clubs.

On November 19th we are going to have a Pre-Thanksgiving Pot Luck at Pete Williams' home in Fraser. This was a lot of fun last year so we decided to do it again this year. Roast Turkey and Potatoes will be provided by Pete. Pot luck dishes and desserts will be provided by you. As with last

year, there is limited seating so be sure to read the flyer and RSVP as soon as you can.

December 3rd we are going to have our Progressive Holiday Dinner Party. This year we are looking to have the event in the Royal Oak / Ferndale area. Note, this is a change of date from a previous announcement. **We are looking for two members to volunteer their home.** We plan to start out in a wine tasting venue and then drive to our main course and then our dessert course. Those who participated last year had an outstanding time. As with last year, there is limited seating so be sure to read the flyer and RSVP as soon as you can. Look for updated flyers in our monthly STARS News or on our MBCA web page.

Don't forget that we are hosting a national MBCA board meeting the first week in November at the Henry Hotel in Dearborn. We will be hosting some really interesting people and events associated with the meeting. See the note on this elsewhere in this BenzScene. Come and join us for some of the meetings and events.

All in all we are in great fiscal shape, and have had events every month this year. Come out and join us! We always are looking for new and exciting things to do. Do you have some ideas? If you do have an idea... send me a note. Our goal is to be... Always the best, *Pete Williams*



Happy Family at the St. Johns Event

2011 National Events Summary and Preview

While the 2011 National Events calendar is winding down, the Event Schedule is always found at the www.mbca.org website, under the OUR COMMUNITY-UPCOMING EVENTS tab. There are a variety of means to select and highlight events. *All MBCA members are encouraged and invited to attend these events. Visit the website regularly for updates and contact/registration information.* There are two remaining events on the national calendar, both here in Michigan!

2011 Lake Huron Mille Driving Tour, September 24-30. This is an extraordinary 6-day driving tour around Lake Huron. Contact Ron Harshman at 312-337-5186

2011 National Board Meeting, November 3-5, 2011. See information elsewhere in this BenzScene.

2011 Monthly General Meetings

The MBCA International Stars Section holds its monthly meetings *generally* on the first Tuesday of the month at *The Crash Landing Restaurant*, a casual dining restaurant located on the east side of Dequindre just north of I-696. It is very easy and convenient to get to from all areas. *The Crash Landing Restaurant* is at 26620 Dequindre Road, Warren, MI 48091-3938 (586) 751-4444. They do *not* charge us for the meeting room. As a courtesy to our hosts, we *suggest* that attendees consider ordering a meal.

Remaining meetings for 2011 are as follows: September 13*, October 4, November 1, and December 6. *The July and September meetings are on the *2nd* Tuesdays due to the 4th of July and Labor Day holiday weeks. *Our meetings are not board meetings, but general meetings open for all members!*



Concours d'Elegance of America Sunday July 31, 2011 Plymouth, Michigan

We had a *fabulous* turnout for this event, with over 140 MBCA members from around the country. This was one of the largest and finest Concours d'Elegance ever presented in the USA. 331 fabulous cars were on display. More than 11,500 people attended. The weather was perfect. For a first-time event at the new venue, challenges were minimal and fun was maximized. There were an abundance of families in attendance, and by the smiles on the faces everyone looked to having a great time. In true Detroit tradition, the event is kept affordable and accessible to all with low ticket prices in comparison to other nationally-recognized Concours. We had a sponsor tent on the field, next to the 20 cars in the Mercedes class. One Mercedes won the Best of Show for European cars. There will be an article and photos of the event in the next issue of *The Star*, and other photos are posted on the International Stars website.



Photos by Crescent Rose Photography. Top, our sponsor tent. Bottom an aerial shot of the MBFS family area, with MBCA member cars on display. Left, photographer David Maylen's head; he really got into it!

YOU are hosting an EVENT! National Board Meeting November 2-5,2011 Dearborn...are you coming?

That's right members...YOU are hosting an event, the National Board Meeting, in November. So, are you coming? How will you help out and or participate?

There are nearly 80 sections in the MBCA, and we are just one. There are two board meetings a year. Therefore, it might be another FORTY YEARS before we get to do this again. So, our plan is to do it exceedingly well. To that end, your participation is requested.

The board meeting is not just stuffy meetings that might not hold your interest. There are committee meetings, chances to meet the people who chart the course of the club, the look of The Star magazine, the type of events the club holds, and more. There will be plenty of opportunity to participate in your club, learn how it operates and ask questions. Most club decisions are made at these meetings.

But, all work and no play makes for a dull time. Therefore we have some fun planned as well, for our 30+ out of town guests. We will hold a Welcome Reception as well as a Banquet at the conclusion. Though still being organized, presently our plan for the Welcome Reception is to hold it at the DIA (Detroit Institute of Arts) and showcase the Rivera Court on Thursday November 3rd in the evening. The Banquet is planned for Saturday evening, November 5th, at the Automotive Hall of Fame. There will be a nominal charge for dinner at the banquet. Friday afternoon, November 4th, might have free time, and present plans are to have groups visit the Rouge Factory Tour and The Henry Ford Museum. We would encourage our membership—remember, you are the hosts—to assist and chaperone these out of town guests to these local attractions and make our guests feel welcome.

When everything is finalized on our events, you'll receive a separate mailing. However, you may contact me, Michael Salemi, in advance to let me know if you would like to participate in our hosting of this notable meeting. mdsalemi@sbcglobal.net or 734-578-6695

Summer or Winter Home?

Take your MBCA membership with you . Join a second section for \$15, and enjoy the benefits at your second home, too!

International Stars Upcoming Events

Note that events come up quickly on occasion, and we ALWAYS email flyers and information! Please ensure we have your email address so you can stay informed regarding details of planned events as well as new events.

Years ago, events were planned long in advance, hosts and planners of these events were plentiful, and there was plenty of time to get out printed information on them. Alas, that is no longer true. Email is the standard, and if you do not have email or provided us with your email address, you will not receive all our information in a timely manner.

Upcoming events include the Show and Shine this coming Saturday, the Fall Color and Pumpkin Tour, the Pre-Thanksgiving Pot Luck, and the Holiday Progressive dinner, if we can find hosts for that one. Flyers on these events are included here.

Do you have some ideas for 2012? Come to a monthly meeting and help us plan an event calendar for next year.

Mercedes-Benz Research and Development Day - August 19

The event started at 11 AM at the Redford M-B Research and Development Center (MBRD) in Redford. We were greeted by a very friendly staff and we parked our cars to display them for the staff at the MBRD.

Several employees also brought their favorite collectable car as well. We had a very nice mix of cars from a 1956 190 SL to a 2008 SL550. Fifteen MBCA members brought thirteen cars. That's a nice turnout, thank you for coming members!

We enjoyed a very nice barbeque lunch along with the employees of the MBRD. Next, we were given a demonstration of an Electric A Class MB and its charging station. That was very cool, state of the art technology! Finally we had a tour of their facility. At the end we got a surprise...namely that **Don MacDonald** had won a trophy for Best Car! Congratulations, Don!





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 Stamp
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EMAIL IS OUR PRIMARY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION!

WELCOME

We welcome the following NEW members to the MBCA and International Stars as of 9/10/11: Cathy Jackson, Detroit; Paul Devers, Petersburg; Joseph Berwanger, Bloomfield Hills; David Gaddy, Warren; William Flury, Waterford; Timothy Scott, St. Claire Shores; Rosemarie Buda, Canton; Robert Denning, Grosse Ile; Hilary Johns, Southfield; Gary Koprin, Clinton Twp.; Kiro Trendov, Woodhaven; Dante Espritu, Bloomfield Hills; Leif Nelson, Hazel Park; Timothy Richards, Rochester.

All new members, please, make an effort to attend an event or a monthly meeting. We'd love to meet you, and we want to see your cars, too!

**To all members who have recently renewed their membership,
 THANK YOU!**